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Appln No. 09/692,747  
Amdt date August 18, 2006  
Reply to Office action of May 18, 2006

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An on-line system for printing a value bearing item (VBI) comprising:

~~a user using one or more computers connected to a computer network and utilized by a user for registering with the on-line system;~~

~~a client system for generating secret key for identifying information specific to a first computer used by the user for registering with the on-line system, wherein the secret information includes a hash message authentication key (HMK) and the HMK is encrypted;~~

~~a server system capable of communicating with the one or more user-computers over the computer network for receiving user information and the secret key information including the encrypted HMK from the first computer and registering a user storing the secret information including the encrypted HMK, wherein the server system decrypts the encrypted HMK to authenticate the user and the first computer;~~

~~a user interface to inform the user that the user is already registered on the first computer and to give the user an option of re-registering the user on a second computer, if the second computer used by the user to access the system is not the same as the first computer used for registering the user; and~~

~~a re-registration user interface for requiring the user to re-register if when the secret information including the encrypted HMK generated by the first computer is not the same as new secret information including an encrypted second HMK generated by a second computer not the same as the first computer the user selects the option of re-registering on the second computer, wherein the re-registration user interface requires the user to enter only a portion of user information required for registering the user with the on-line system.~~

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2. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising one or more client software resident on the one or more user computers, wherein each client software include a graphical user interface (GUI).

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[3]] 1, wherein the HMK is randomly generated in a user computer at the time of user registration with the on-line system.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[3]] 1, wherein the HMK is encrypted using a Triple DES key derived from a user passphrase.

7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[3]] 1, wherein the HMK is used to sign individual server requests and authenticate the user for each server request.

8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[3]] 1, wherein the HMK is stored at the user computer.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[3]] 1, wherein the HMK is changed on a periodic basis.

10. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the server system includes a cryptographic module for storing the secret key in a secure database.

11. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the secret key is stored as a part of a user PSD package.

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12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 9, wherein the cryptographic module uses a corresponding private key to decrypt the encrypted secret keys.

13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising a printer for printing the VBI, wherein the VBI bears postage value.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising a printer for printing the VBI, wherein the VBI is a ticket.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising a printer for printing the VBI, wherein the VBI is one or more of a coupon, a currency, a voucher, and a check.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for printing a value bearing item (VBI) by a user using one or more computers connected to a computer network, the method comprising the steps of:

registering by the user with an on-line system for printing the VBI;

generating ~~[[a ]]secret key for identifying information specific to~~ a first computer used by the user for registering with the on-line system, the secret information including a hash message authentication key (HMK);

receiving user information and the secret key information from the first computer by a server system ~~capable of communicating with the one or more user computers over the computer network;~~

storing the received secret information;

~~identifying using~~ a second computer ~~used~~ by the user to logon to the on-line system ~~using the secret key;~~

generating a second secret information including a second HMK specific to the second computer;

receiving a second secret information including a second HMK specific to the second computer by the server system;

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comparing the stored secret information including the HMK specific to the first computer with the received second secret information including the second HMK specific to the second computer;

~~informing the user that the user is already registered on the first computer and providing the user with an option of re-registering the user on the second computer; and~~

~~requiring the user to re-register by asking the user to enter only a portion of user information required for registering the user with the on-line system responsive to a mismatch between the stored secret information including the HMK and the received second secret information including the second HMK secret key.~~

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[17]] 16, further comprising the step of randomly generating the HMK in a user computer at the time of user registration with the on-line system.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of encrypting the HMK..

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[17]] 16, further comprising the step of encrypting the HMK using a Triple DES key derived from a user passphrase.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[17]] 16, further comprising the step of using the HMK to sign individual server requests and authenticate the user for each server request.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[17]] 16, further comprising the step of storing the HMK at the user computer.

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23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[17]] 16, further comprising the step of changing the HMK on a periodic basis.

24. (Original) The system of claim 16, further comprising the step of storing the secret key in a secure database remote from the user computer.

25. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of storing the secret key as a part of a user PSD package.

26. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the step of printing the VBI comprises printing a postage value.

27. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the step of printing the VBI comprises printing a ticket.

28. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the step of printing the VBI comprises printing one or more of a coupon, a currency, a voucher, and a check.

29. (Currently Amended) An on-line system for printing a value bearing item (VBI) comprising:

~~a user using one or more computers connected to a computer network and utilized by a user for registering with the on-line system;~~

~~a memory for storing client system for generating information specific to a first computer used by the user for registering with the on-line system, wherein the information comprises a hash message authentication key (HMK) and the HMK is encrypted is used by the server system to identify the first computer;~~

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a server system capable of communicating with the one or more user computers over the computer network for receiving user information and the ~~computer information~~ encrypted HMK from the first computer;

~~a user interface to inform the user that the user is already registered on the first computer and to give the user an option of re-registering the user on a second computer, if the second computer used by the user to access the system is not the same as the first computer used for registering the user; and~~

a re-registration user interface for requiring the user to re-register ~~if when the HMK generated by the first computer is not the same as a new HMK generated by a second computer not the same as the first computer the user selects the option of re-registering on the second computer, wherein the re-registration user interface requires the user to enter only a portion of user information required for registering the user with the on line system.~~

30. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein the information specific to a first computer include one or more of register settings, a processor's ID, machine configuration, a network card ID, and a user's private key.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein the information specific to a first computer is encrypted using a Triple DES key derived from a user passphrase.

33. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein the server system includes a cryptographic module for storing the information specific to a first computer in a secure database.

34. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein the VBI bears postage value.

35. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein the VBI is a ticket.

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36. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein the VBI is one or more of a coupon, a currency, a voucher, and a check.

37. (Currently Amended) A method for printing a value bearing item (VBI) by a user using one or more computers connected to a computer network, the method comprising the steps of:

~~registering by the user using a first computer with an on-line system for printing a (VBI) the VBI;~~

~~storing generating secret information including a first hash message authentication key (HMK) and including information specific to [[a]] the first computer used by the user for registering with the on-line system, wherein the information is used by the server system to identify the first computer;~~

~~receiving user information and the secret information including the first HMK and the information specific to the first computer from the first computer by a server system;~~

~~identifying using a second computer used by the user to logon to the on-line system using the information specific to the second computer;~~

~~generating a second secret information including a second HMK specific to the second computer;~~

~~comparing the secret information including the first HMK specific to the first computer with the second secret information including the second HMK specific to the second computer;~~

~~informing the user that the user is already registered on the first computer and providing the user with an option of re-registering the user on the second computer; and~~

~~requiring the user to re-register by asking the user to enter only a portion of user information required for registering the user with the on-line system responsive to a mismatch between the secret information including the first HMK and the second secret information including the second HMK.~~

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38. (Original) The method of claim 37, wherein the information specific to a first computer include one or more of register settings, a processor's ID, machine configuration, a network card ID, and a user's private key.

39. (Canceled)

40. (Original) The method of claim 37, further comprising the step of encrypting the information specific to a first computer using a Triple DES key derived from a user passphrase.

41. (Original) The method of claim 37, further comprising the step of storing the information specific to a first computer at the user computer.

42. (Original) The system of claim 37, further comprising the step of storing the information specific to a first computer in a secure database remote from the user computer.

43. (Original) The method of claim 37, wherein the step of printing the VBI comprises printing a postage value.

44. (Original) The method of claim 37, wherein the step of printing the VBI comprises printing a ticket.

45. (Original) The method of claim 37, wherein the step of printing the VBI comprises printing one or more of a coupon, a currency, a voucher, and a check.

46. (New) The method of claim 17, further comprising receiving a passphrase from the user to authenticate the user and the second computer.



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47. (New) The method of claim 37, further comprising receiving a passphrase from the user to authenticate the user and the second computer.